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(44) for *agnoscere*, *interdam* (48) for *interdum*, *detesdandis* (49) for *detestandis*, *censuamus* (55) for *censuimus*. Add the meaningless characters, some of which are not even letters, in lines 41 and 42, in place of *difficile sit* and *revelari*, and the meaningless leaf in line 32.

Some of these monstrosities look as if the stone-cutter knew little or no Latin.

It deserves notice that the fragments of this edict previously found in Greece, viz., at Gythion, Geronthrai, Megara, Karystos, Thebes, Lebadeia, Thespiæ and Elateia,<sup>2</sup> are all in Greek.

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J. C. ROLFE,  
F. B. TARBELL.

## II. REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT PLATAIA IN 1889.

In December 1888, the Greek Government granted to the American School a concession to carry on excavations in Boiotia, at Plataia, Anthedon and Thisbe. Work was to begin in the latter half of February 1889. Accordingly, Professor Tarbell, Mr. Buck and Dr. Rolfe examined the sites, and decided to begin work at Anthedon and to proceed next to Thisbe.

On March 29, I set out with Professor Tarbell for Thebes and Thisbe, at which latter place Dr. Rolfe was at that time digging. From Thebes I visited the site of ancient Plataia and decided upon beginning trial excavations at once. The drawback of Plataia as a field for excavation is the great extent of the ground and the confusing number of vestiges of ancient remains. But, though this adds to the uncertainty of making definite finds, it also increases the probability of discovering some objects of interest. Moreover, I felt that our efforts could in no event be wasted; as, even if no objects of artistic or epigraphic importance should be discovered, a careful study of the site would be a great addition to topography, as it soon became evident that all previous work in this direction had been insufficient. With this in reserve, I have set as my highest aim the discovery of the ancient temple of Hera or of some other edifice of similar importance, such as the temple of Athena Areia, or the temple of Demeter. Meanwhile, through the exertions of Mr. Wesley Harper, Dr. Lamborn and Mr. H. G.

<sup>2</sup> See *CIL*, III<sup>2</sup>, pp. 812-23; *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, IV, p. 180, and V, pp. 87-91; *Bull. de Corr. Hellén.*, IX (1885), pp. 222-39.

Marquand, a sufficient sum had been collected to warrant the undertaking of this work.

On March 31, I joined Professor Tarbell and Dr. Rolfe at Thisbe, and the next day we proceeded to Plataia and began work on April 2 with 63 men. Our plan was to dig at numerous points in the hope of finding some index for concentrated work in the future. There are, on the upper and lower portions of this extensive site, nine Byzantine churches. As, in the building of such churches, fragments of earlier structures and monuments were generally used, we decided to dig in and about these ruins. We therefore divided the workmen into three parties. Professor Tarbell and Dr. Rolfe will give their notes in their own words. The objects found were chiefly inscriptions, which will be published separately by these two gentlemen.

April 2. I began by clearing away the *débris* from the ruined church just below the lower city on the north side facing Thebes, by digging a trench between two rocky projections on the hill near the church, which, it appeared to me, might have occupied the site of a gate. In digging here, as indeed, in all of the churches, care was taken not to needlessly destroy traces of Byzantine work—a practice which future explorers ought rigorously to maintain. One fragmentary inscription was found among the *débris* of this church; but no trace of further antique work; nor was there any trace of a gate at this spot. Work at the first church was continued, and then a church within the city-walls on the north side, nearest the northern limit, was examined. In the latter was found a fragmentary inscription of a few letters on dark stone; and trenches dug about this church showed extensive Byzantine walls.

April 3. We began to clear a church about the centre of the lower city toward the east, where inscriptions (already known) on drums of columns were above ground: no results. Work was interrupted by rain. An hour in the evening was utilized in clearing away rubbish from a small church by the well on the road leading to the village on the west of the city-wall. A small sepulchral relief of Graeco-Roman period was found here, but no further work of art.

April 4. We continued digging to a considerable depth in the central church, and cleared some Byzantine walls around it. In the afternoon, took all the workmen to top of lower city to work in and about the church where Professor Tarbell had previously dug. I was subsequently joined by Dr. Rolfe. On the following day, we cleared

away and dug down to the pavement, occasionally below it, in this church. The ground-plan here published (*Fig. 42*) has been kindly drawn by Mr. Schultz of the British School at Athens. The only additions I have to make to his plan of this interesting three-apsed church is a staircase, which could be distinctly made out during the digging, leading down to the southeast corner of the southern apse. The egg-and-dart pattern on the *geisa* used as door-posts on the west and south sides is of good workmanship and belonged to an earlier classic building, probably the same as the one from which came a fine marble moulding immured in the well on the road. The marble architrave-blocks are also of good workman-

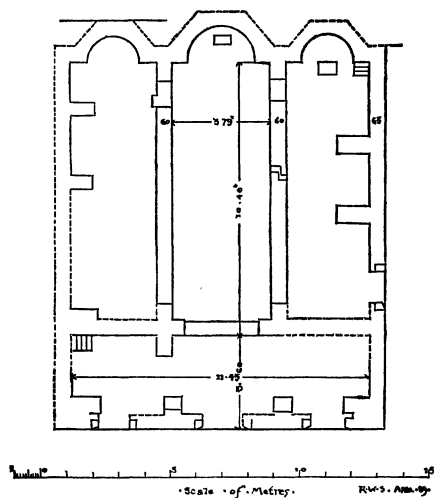


FIG. 42.—Plataia. Ground-plan of Byzantine church.

ship. There had probably been an extensive classic building near this site. But I am inclined to believe that the church in its present condition was built in Frankish times, as a fine piece of Byzantine marble screen-work was immured in the southwest corner of the wall. The inscriptions here found will be published subsequently. The inscription recording the heroization of Moscheina was found in an upright position in the west wall; while the fragment of the Edict of Diocletian was part of the pavement running under the southern wall at the beginning of the middle apse.

The funds remaining in hand will enable us to continue our excavations next season for some time.

CHARLES WALDSTEIN.

April 2. I began work, with eighteen men, at a ruined Byzantine church to the N. E. of the city, outside the walls. Trenches were dug both within and without, but nothing of importance was found. On the same day, I made a beginning of clearing the westernmost of the churches in the lower (northern) division of the ancient city, but without results.

April 3. After working an hour on the last-named church, I moved to another, just outside the upper division of the city on the east side, said to be named "Ἅγιος Δημήτριος. Some late inscriptions were found here.

F. B. TARBELL.

April 2. I began work, with twenty-one men, in a ruined Byzantine church, situated on a low elevation east of the city-walls as usually defined, but within the long eastern wall extending from the northern slope of Kithairon. The name of the church was given me as "Ἅγιος Νικόλας. In the interior of the church, were found two inscribed tombstones and some fragments of inscriptions. In the apse of the church, digging was carried as far as the pavement, which was examined. At the sides, where the pavement was gone, a depth of 3 m. was reached, and some graves, with human bones, were found. Trenches were also dug up to and around the church on the northern, southern, and western sides.

April 3. Work was continued at the same church until noon, when it was suspended on account of rain. In the front of the church, at a depth of 2 m., were found two fragments of reliefs of poor Roman workmanship; also a fragment of a marble plinth with the toes of one foot, fairly well executed.

April 4. Work proceeded during the morning at a church west of the city-walls, close to the spring, which had been cleared of *débris* the day before. Trenches were dug around the church and the interior was cleared out, but we were unable to go very deep on account of the water, which was reached at the depth of half a meter. Nothing was found in this church. At noon, I took my men to the southern part of the town, where trenches were cut until (at 4 p. m.) I joined forces with Dr. Waldstein.

J. C. ROLFE.